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VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF
MEDICINE AND SURGERY

January 4, 1951

U. S. PATENT OFFICE
JAN 8 1951
DIVISION 55

YOUR FILE REFERENCE:

IN REPLY REFER TO: 10KH
252 Seventh Avenue,
New York 1, New York

Mr. E. W. Kirby
Division 55, Patent Office
Department of Commerce
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kirby:

The attached description of a bowling attachment for arm amputees may be useful to you. There was newspaper publicity about 1948 on the West Coast. Northrop Aircraft will show illustrations of this and other gadgets in its final report, due this spring.

Sierra Engineering had sold a dozen or so long before they gave me a sample in July, 1950.

We shall see that you receive copies of the Northrop and Catranis final reports, both as of December 31, 1950, when they are issued.

Yours very truly,

Eugene F. Murphy

EUGENE F. MURPHY
Assistant Director for Research
Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service

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U. S. PATENT OFFICE
JAN 8 1951
DIVISION 55

January 3, 1951

10KH

252 Seventh Avenue,
New York 1, New York

Major C. A. Bell
Director of Prosthetic Services
Department of Veterans Affairs
Ottawa, Canada

Reference: Bowling Attachments

Dear Major Bell:

Your letter of December 16, 1950 with a sketch of a bowling device has been received. Attached is a copy of a letter to a possible source of supply for the rubber cup which Mr. Larson of our office has located. I hope this source may solve your problem.

An alternative method to permit bilateral arm amputees to bowl was developed by Northrop Aircraft, Inc., and Sierra Engineering Company. It has been used successfully by Lonny Carberry and Jerry Leavy, and by other amputees on the West Coast. A cylindrical rubber plug which will just clear a finger hole in the conventional bowling ball is pushed barrel-shaped by a strong spring. Cone-shaped washers are pressed into opposite ends of the cylinder. The greatest diameter of the barrel-shaped rubber plug then gives frictional engagement with the side of the hole. A lever attached to the usual control cable, attached to the shoulder harness, will compress the spring and permit the plug to return to cylindrical form. Thereby the ball is released whenever the amputee tightens his hook control cable. The entire assemblage is screwed into the wrist of the usual American artificial arm, replacing the hook.

Sierra Engineering has made a few of these devices. They told me last summer that they would be able to make them (under the price structure which then existed) for $10.00 apiece if they had orders of thirteen at a time, but the price would be much higher if they were made one or two at a time. From our standpoint officially, the device is used for recreation rather than pure rehabilitation purposes and would not be suitable for issuance at Government expense. It might well be, however, that private groups such as the War Amputations of Canada could gather a group of orders to be put through in one batch. I am sure that Mr. John Conselman of Sierra would make every effort to produce the devices at as reasonable a cost as possible.

Major G. A. Bell January 3, 1951

I have a sample of the Northrop Sierra device and will be glad to lend it to you if your bilateral arm amputee would be able to use it.

Yours very truly,

Eugene F. Murphy

EUGENE F. MURPHY
Assistant Director for Research
Prosthetic and Sensory Aids Service

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Encl.